



Letter from the Executive Director, Penny Egan

These have been a momentous few months for the US-UK Fulbright Commission as we began celebrating our 60th anniversary.

The treaty forming the Commission was signed by both governments on 22 September 1948 at the House of Commons in the presence of founder Senator J. William Fulbright. To mark this occasion, we wanted to celebrate the past, but also a sustainable future.

The anniversary year has been a time for fun, with the preview of Toby Young's film; a time to look back and celebrate at Downing Street with many of our alumni from the six decades; and a time to look forward at the House of Commons. It was at this event, 60 years after the signing of the treaty, that we announced 13 new partnership awards with several more to follow shortly.

We are also delighted to have support from both governments. As Prime Minister Gordon Brown remarked, 'I want many more British and American university students to have the chance to study across the Atlantic. I believe that the future of our relationship can, if we choose, deliver far more even than it has achieved in its past. Not just for both our nations, but for the world. So I warmly welcome the expansion of the [Fulbright] programme'.

Lastly we have launched a fundraising drive to endow an anniversary award. We have so far raised £77,000 from Commissioners, former Commissioners and friends. Please contact me on penny@fulbright.co.uk to support this initiative.

Fulbright Announces Increased Awards

On September 22nd, over 60 honoured guests, alumni and friends of the Commission attended a ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Fulbright Treaty between the US and UK governments. Alumnus and Home Office Minister Liam Byrne sponsored the event, which took place in the riverside dining room of the House of Commons.



Speakers Simon Lewis and Ruth Thomson and US Ambassador Robert Tuttle

Commission Chair Simon Lewis announced the first wave of new Fulbright Awards. With over 60 awards available in 2010/11, the Commission will increase the number of scholarships given each year by at least 30%. The new awards are supported by UK universities, institutes of higher education and a research charity.

The American and British systems of higher education are generally recognised as the two most prestigious in the world, and as universities on both sides of the Atlantic internationalise their campuses, the Fulbright Programme is a key means of increasing the exchange of post-graduate students, researchers and faculty. With the growing number of Fulbright Awards, both governments are committed to not only seeking excellent candidates for these scholarships, but also are determined that the recipients take advantage of the wide range of academic opportunities available across both countries.

This first wave of new partnership awards announced will allow more outstanding American

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Celebrating Our 60th Anniversary

To celebrate 60 years of Fulbright scholars crossing the Atlantic, the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown made 10 Downing Street available for an evening reception on 10 September.

For this very special occasion, we assembled a group of alumni from across the six decades, including: UK alumna Shirley Williams, who sailed into New York on the *Mauritania* and poet Al Alvarez from the 1950s, philosopher Baroness Onora O'Neill and Sir Walter Bodmer from the 1960s and Professor Jean Aitchison from the 1970s. Also in attendance were 1980s alumna and choreographer Siobhan Davies and Ken Jones, the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers, who received a Police Fellowship during the 1990s.

Fresh off the plane were our new 2008-09 US Fulbright scholars who were dazzled by their first event in the UK. The Commission was delighted to host a group of US alumni, including Joe Montes, John Fitzgerald, Dr Patricia Lin, Dr Judy Davison and Mary Sue Ellinger. James Glassman, the US Department of State's Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Goli Ameri, US Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, and Colleen Graffy, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy, arrived from the US as well especially to support the anniversary event.



Guests Shirley Williams and Goli Ameri, with Executive Director Penny Egan

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USA College Day 2008

On Saturday, 27 September, the Fulbright Commission hosted its annual USA College Day at the Royal National Hotel in London, in partnership with event sponsor Hobsons US Education Guides.

As Europe's largest US undergraduate university fair, USA College Day is a unique opportunity for students, parents, teachers and careers advisors to meet with representatives from US universities without the expense of travelling to the US. The Commission was very pleased to have 89 US universities representing 21 states and nine international campuses, as well as 14 educational service providers on hand to provide advice and guidance to prospective students, parents and careers advisors. With 3,000 visitors on the day, this year's fair was the most successful in its 31-year history!

Incoming Cultural Attaché Liza Davis kicked off College Day with welcoming remarks at the exhibitors breakfast, sponsored by IELTS. Meanwhile, Lauren Welch, Head of Advising, and Erin Walters, Educational Advisor, presented a comprehensive overview of the US admissions process for students and parents before the fair opened to the public. Following this opening session, industry experts led drop-in information sessions throughout the day on topics including the US application process, admissions tests and sports scholarships. Juan Arellano, Deputy Non-Immigrant Visas Chief of the US Embassy, also spoke on the visa application process.

Lending their support to this event were current US Scholars Nicolas Abreu, Samuel Fallon, Elsie Gyang, Alberto Herrera, Robin Kolodny, Brendan Krauss, Amina Merchant, Farah Shareef and Taylor Spears. From registering visitors to advis-

ing prospective students at the Fulbright stand, their help was invaluable to ensuring the event was a success. The Commission's staff would like to thank them again for their involvement.

The feedback gathered from both exhibitors and students about the event has been very positive, suggesting that interest in US study remains strong.

For information about USA College Day 2009, visit www.fulbright.co.uk in the coming months.



Prospective students receive information from a representative at the Hobsons US Education Guides stand

US Scholars Awarded US Embassy Grant for Outreach

With the assistance of grant funding from the US Embassy, US scholars have taken an active role in outreach activities in 2008. This initiative was arranged by outgoing Commissioner and Assistant Cultural Attaché Chris Dunnett and 2007-08 US Scholar Justin Sanders. Though scholars chose a variety of projects, activities were linked by a common thread: encouraging cultural understanding between the US and UK.

In many instances, funding was used to offset travel expenses, allowing scholars to join Fulbright staff in promoting US study and the Fulbright Awards. Nine current scholars assisted with USA College Day, while two 2007-08 scholars, Pauline Mujawamariya and Sarah Griffen, assisted with USA Grad School Day in April.

Additionally, scholars represented the Commission at outreach events at UK schools and universities. In September, Jeanette Coombs promoted US study at a college fair at Methodist College Belfast, speaking with over 150 interested students and parents at the Fulbright stand. Current scholar Marcia Mundt is also set to travel from Bradford to the Manchester Postgraduate Study Fair in November.

Several scholars also developed their own outreach projects. In February, while occupying the John Adam

Distinguished Chair in the Netherlands, Dr John Cumbler delivered a lecture on US history to students and faculty at Cambridge University. US Distinguished Scholar Dr Jeffery Weinburg served as a guest lecturer on the US Presidency at a variety of universities, government offices and conferences. Outgoing Commissioner Eva Wisemark also took an active role in this project, kindly assisting her mentee, Pauline Mujawamariya, in arranging talks about her experiences as a Fulbright scholar at Isle of Man schools.

This initiative had a significant impact on not only the UK nationals involved in these outreach activities, but also the US scholars themselves. Many scholars reported this project significantly enriched their experiences in the UK. Whether at USA College Day or in a university lecture or conference session, scholars served as de facto ambassadors for the US. In many instances, a rich dialogue on US politics, history and/or education ensued, thus widening the perspectives of both parties. This type of grassroots exchange is at the heart of public diplomacy and the mission of the Fulbright Commission and the Embassy's Public Affairs Office.

Overall, it is estimated this grant assisted the Commission in reaching 3,700 UK nationals, 12 UK schools and universities and nine government offices and organisations. We would like to thank the US Embassy for its support of this initiative.



US Scholars and staff at the Advising Stand

Summer Institutes 2008

The Fulbright Commission would like to welcome back to the UK participants in the 2008 Summer Institutes for Outstanding European Students, a unique collaboration between the US Department of State, Fulbright Commissions in Europe and three US universities.

At each host university, participants experience a five-week programme focused on personal growth, leadership development and learning about US society, history and politics. Additionally, the programme encourages young people to engage in cultural exchange with US citizens and their peers from across Europe. It is our hope this programme will increase students' interest in US-UK exchange and that these undergraduates will later study in the US or apply for a Fulbright Award.

Bentley College Report: UK students Emma Maxwell and Ayesha Ejaz arrived in Boston on 13 July for the programme based at Bentley College, a private business college outside the city. After a tour of Boston and the Harvard and MIT campuses, students began a seminar series on topics such as American culture, history and the upcoming presidential election. The themes of leadership and ethnic diversity were also explored. Excursions included visits to New York City, Plymouth Rock and Washington, DC. Overall, the feedback from

the programme was positive. As noted by UK student Ayesha Ejaz, 'when Gemma and Chris spoke about the programme [at the pre-departure orientation] on the Saturday before we went, I was, to be honest, a bit cynical about it all: I didn't think it would be as fantastic as they made it out to be and it wasn't....it was even better!'

Drexel University Report: On 13 July, Shahnaz Ahsan, Callum Hackett, Joseph Willis, and Daniel Youmans began their programme at Drexel University, a private institution in Philadelphia. Following an orientation to the university and city, students settled into their new accommodation in on-campus dormitories. In addition to daily seminars, students completed service projects, dinner with area international students and homestay with an American family. To compliment their classroom discussions on cultural diversity, they also visited Ellis Island, the Native American Museum in New Jersey and United Nations. According to participant Daniel Youmans, 'It was a wonderful chance to meet new people, learn new things, see new places, that I'll never forget'.

University of Alaska, Anchorage Report: This five-week programme allowed UK participants Kelly Roos and Leanne Brown to learn more about the US educational system. Through seminars and panel discussions, students explored topics such as diversity and integration of students and different philosophies of education. Students also completed site visits to area schools.



Participant Leanne Brown on a site visit to a school in Alaska

US Scholars' Orientation 2008

On 15 and 16 September, the Fulbright Commission welcomed the 2008-09 US Fulbright scholars to the UK. The two-day orientation programme provided a mix of practical information about their scholarships and life in the UK, along with a range of cultural and social activities. Ultimately, it was intended for the 60th anniversary cohort to come together as a group and get to know one another.

This year's orientation programme included a guided tour of the National Portrait Gallery and a discussion with Director Sandy Nairne, a visit to the Royal Society of the Arts (RSA) where scholars receive membership for the duration of their grant year and a group trip to see Monty Python's *Spamalot* in the West End.

Presentations at Fulbright House and the RSA included topics such as the differences between the UK and US higher education systems by the Principal of Kings College, head of Universities UK and Commissioner, Professor Richard Trainor and a discussion of key social, political and intellectual drivers in contemporary Britain by Jonathan Carr-West. Scholars were also introduced to the British Fulbright Scholars Association, and Liza Petrush, Chief, Special Consular Services Unit, US Embassy, provided a presentation on safety issues and consular services. The two day programme ended with a reception for the scholars hosted

jointly by the Fulbright Commission and Goodenough College.

The biographies of these outstanding Fulbright Scholars are included as an attachment to this newsletter. Award recipients come to the UK from a wide range of backgrounds. Yet, they are joined by a common bond: the Fulbright mission of fostering intercultural understanding through educational exchange between the US and UK.



2008-2009 US Scholars, welcome reception at Goodenough College

US Alumnus, Joe Montes

Whilst in London for the 60th anniversary reception at No. 10 Downing Street, US alumnus Joe Montes stopped by Fulbright House to speak about his experiences as a Fulbright scholar.

Mr Montes came to the UK as a Police Fellow in 1996 after having previously completed a BA in Political Science and a Master's in Public Administration at the University of Southern California. Taking a leave from his position at the LAPD, he spent his Fulbright year at the London School of Economics. Mr Montes is now the Chair of the Los Angeles Industrial Development Authority and an investment banker at Union Bank of California in Beverly Hills, California.

Mr Montes was first introduced to the Fulbright Programme during his service in the US military. As a driver to a Four-Star General and Rhodes Scholar, Mr Montes observed firsthand the impact of an international education in today's increasingly global community. This experience inspired Mr Montes to pursue his own international study, specifically in the UK.

As the birthplace of modern policing and the foundation upon which the US system was built, the UK provided Mr Montes with the opportunity to gain a unique perspective on law enforcement. In the aftermath of the Rodney King beating by the LAPD and the Los Angeles riots, Mr Montes wanted to examine the relationship between level of accountability and rank. Focusing his research on leadership traits in law enforcement, Mr Montes was able to explore the differences between the US and UK systems, an outlook he employed upon return to the LAPD.

When discussing the overall significance of the Fulbright Programme, Mr Montes stressed the importance of international academic exchange and the benefits it has for not only the individual, but country and culture at large. He views the US-UK Fulbright Commission as a cornerstone for the 'special relationship' between the two countries in that it engenders the continued sharing of ideas and a commitment to mutual problem-solving both in the US and UK.

Overall, Mr Montes noted his experiences in

London and the connections he made at LSE created a life-changing opportunity for him in laying the foundation for his future position with Goldman Sachs & Co., current banking career and role as a community leader in Los Angeles. Mr. Montes feels very honoured for the opportunity to study abroad and grateful to his country for allowing him the scholarship to do so.



US Alumnus Joe Montes at the No. 10 Downing Street Event

FULBRIGHT CELEBRATES (CONT.)

US Alumni Mary Sue Ellinger, Dr Patricia Lin, Dr Judy Davison and Joe Montes



The reception was held in the State rooms, and many had their photographs taken at the famous front door and on the staircase amidst the photographs of past Prime Ministers.

John Denham, the UK Secretary of State DUIS, addressed the gathering. James Glassman greeted guests on behalf of President George W. Bush with Simon Lewis, Chair of the Commission, concluding the speeches. All three men spoke warmly of the importance of the Programme and of their ongoing support.

The following morning, James Glassman was interviewed on the *Today Programme* about the Fulbright anniversary and the continuing importance of the special relationship. BBC Radio 4 took an in-depth look



Speakers Simon Lewis, John Denham and James Glassman

at the continuing relevance of the Fulbright Programme on 'The Learning Curve' later that month.

Photos for this article, and articles on 'Increased Awards' and 'Scholars Orientation', were provided by Juliette Atkinson.

NEW AWARDS (CONT.)

postgraduates to study or research at centres of excellence in the UK. The Commission will also introduce a new category of award, the Fulbright Distinguished Chair, bringing senior US professors to the UK starting in 2010. The new awards include:

- Fulbright-Bristol University Award
- Fulbright-Coventry Award in Automotive Design
- Fulbright-Glasgow University Award
- Fulbright-Leeds University Award
- Fulbright-Liverpool University Award
- Fulbright-Sussex University Award
- Fulbright-Warwick University Award
- Fulbright-University College Falmouth Media Award
- Fulbright-King's College London Research Award
- Fulbright-Multiple Sclerosis Society Research Award
- Fulbright-University of the Arts London Distinguished Chair Award
- Fulbright-Glasgow Urban Lab Distinguished Chair Award (supported by Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow City Council and the Lighthouse)
- Fulbright-Leeds University Distinguished Chair Award

Ambassador Robert Tuttle also read a Presidential Proclamation from President George W. Bush, while Ruth Thompson, Director General, Higher Education-DUIS and Commissioner, spoke on behalf of the UK government. Commissioner and former British Ambassador to the US, Lord Kerr concluded with a call to support for the anniversary award.

Baroness Amos was recognised, having recently been appointed by the British government as a UK Commissioner. It was also announced that US Ambassador Robert Tuttle, Deborah Owen, Sir Robert Worcester, Charles McVeigh, Chuck Lubar and Harry Fitzgibbons have all agreed to become Patrons of the US-UK Fulbright Programme.